

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed March 17, 2003. In the Office Action, claims 5-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,191,360 issued to Tao, et al. (Tao) in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,457,506 issued to Lowry. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection. Claim 19 has been revised and claims 21-23 have been added.

In the Office Action, it is alleged that Lowry inherently describes the following:

curing of the epoxy with energy at a microwave frequency via an inherent microwave generator that inherently comprises baking the substrate before curing the epoxy (via heating package results in a bake) and selecting a frequency to cure epoxy without damaging IC..."

Applicant disagrees. In contrast, Lowry describes subjecting the encapsulant to electromagnetic (microwave) radiation to break the polymer bonds of the polymer resin to *decapsulate* the integrated circuit package. (Emphasis added). Thus, Lowry teaches away from the use of energy at microwave frequency to cure the epoxy.

Hence, since independent claims 5, 9 and 22 include limitations of curing epoxy by using energy at a microwave frequency and neither Tao nor Lowry, alone or in combination, suggest the claimed limitation, withdrawal of the outstanding §103(a) rejection is respectfully solicited.

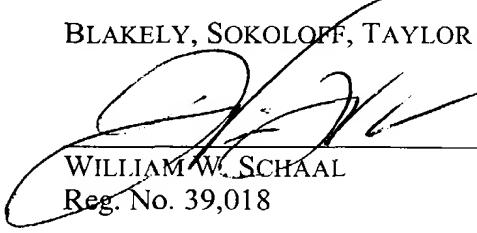
CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks made above, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

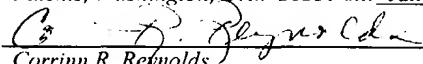
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: June 17, 2003


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on: June 17, 2003.


Corinn R. Reynolds 6/17/03
Date

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